

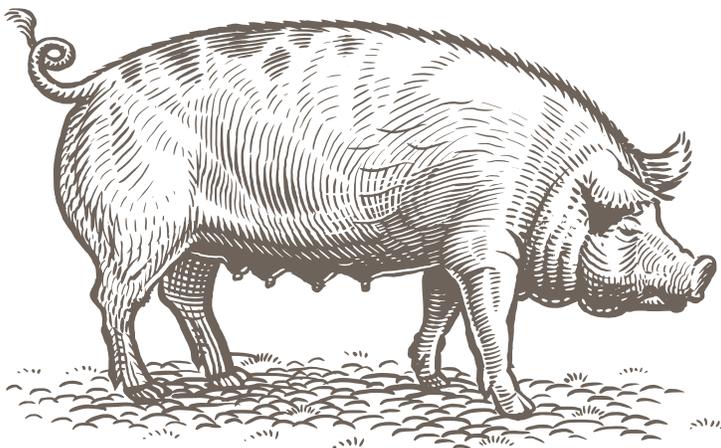


# The Animals' Advocate

FEATURE

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# Be their voice.



**ANIMAL LEGAL  
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**At the Animal Legal Defense Fund, we work tirelessly on behalf of innocent animals who suffer because they are victims of human cruelty, neglect, and indifference.**

We're committed to protecting animals, preventing cruelty, and holding abusers accountable. One important tool at our disposal is restorative justice — which recognizes and seeks to remedy the harm done to a victim of animal cruelty, while stopping future abuse before it happens.

To advocates like you and me, it's clear that animals can experience pain, fear, and distress — but incredibly, not every court yet recognizes them as capable of being victims. Instead, they're typically viewed as mere property by our legal system. With your support, we're working to change that and ensure that animals are granted the legal status they deserve.

In a restorative justice model, an offender must take responsibility for their actions, recognize their impact on the victim, and make meaningful amends — all with a focus on rehabilitation and preventing recidivism. Notably, applying this method to an animal cruelty case requires first recognizing the animal's legal status as the victim of a crime — not an object, but an individual in her own right.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is integrating restorative justice concepts into our training sessions for law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and judges — and creating the very first legal model demonstrating how these methods can be applied to animal cases.

Animals are every bit as capable of suffering as humans are — but our legal system is only now beginning to recognize this simple truth. The work that you make possible at the Animal Legal Defense Fund is helping to drive this growing understanding.

**Thank you for all you do to make the world a more just place for all beings.**

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**For the animals,**

**Stephen Wells**  
Executive Director



# Fighting Abuse to Cows and Calves

BY LINDSAY BARNETT | SENIOR WRITER

With your help, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is standing up for some of the most vulnerable and least protected animals there are — cows and calves in the dairy industry. Abuse is endemic to dairy factory farms. Cows are repeatedly impregnated to maintain milk production, and their calves are taken away immediately after birth. Male calves are discarded, destined to be slaughtered as veal.

## Shining a Light on Cruelty

A recent undercover investigation by Animal Outlook documented severe and pervasive cruelty to cows and calves at a California dairy that supplied brands sold nationwide at Target.

At the Dick Van Dam Dairy in San Jacinto, California, cows were documented being hit, kicked, and jabbed with metal pipes and splintered wooden canes. Workers poked their fingers into animals' eyes and twisted their tails so hard that the bones broke. Young calves in urgent need of veterinary care were instead denied treatment and left to die where they lay. And “downed” cows — those too sick, weak, or injured to stand — were lifted by their

hips with machinery and held aloft, causing them significant distress, before being lowered again and left to suffer and die in the dirt.

## Taking On Abusers

When the Animal Legal Defense Fund received evidence of this abuse, we filed a lawsuit against the dairy on behalf of a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, citing California state anti-cruelty laws and local ordinances. Our suit sought to shut down the facility and prevent its operators from harming any more animals.

Moved by the plight of these cows and calves, Emmy-nominated actress and animal advocate Kate Mara provided narration for the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s video about the case and used her celebrity platform to spread the word about Dick Van Dam Dairy’s cruelty — available at [aldf.org/investigation](http://aldf.org/investigation). Through her advocacy, untold thousands of her fans were exposed to our message of protection for all animals — including the farmed animals for whom few protections currently exist in our legal system.

In response to a motion from the dairy’s legal team, the judge unfortunately determined that the society for prevention to cruelty to animals did not have standing to prevent cruelty to animals — but the Animal Legal Defense Fund remains undeterred in our mission to protect animals from cruelty. This work takes many forms, including additional litigation and legal advocacy to affirm the rights of animal protection organizations to sue to stop animal cruelty. A North Carolina law, for example, enabled the Animal Legal Defense Fund to obtain a court order to rescue more than 300 dogs from a hoarding situation in 2005.

## Demanding Corporate Protection for Cows and Calves

In October, the Animal Legal Defense Fund launched a campaign to urge Target to honor its corporate policy on the treatment of animals raised for food, like the cows and calves at the center of this case. Target’s policy states that the company believes “every animal deserves to be ... [f]ree from pain ... fear & distress” — a standard that has clearly not been consistently upheld in its supply chain. Dick Van Dam Dairy was a supplier to Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), a large cooperative that sells milk under brands including Dairy Pure

and TruMoo, both sold at Target stores. This is not the first time a DFA supplier has been exposed for committing animal cruelty — yet Target has thus far maintained its lucrative business relationship with the cooperative.

**Undercover footage has documented DFA-affiliated facilities in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska engaging in cruelty, including hitting and kicking cows, jabbing them with screwdrivers, and leaving young calves outside in freezing temperatures, which led to some of the calves dying from preventable illnesses such as pneumonia and scours.**

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is urging Target to honor its own policy by insisting that every one of its suppliers meet its stated anti-cruelty standards. We’ve asked Target to remove all DFA products from its store shelves immediately — and offered to assist the company in conducting a thorough inspection of DFA’s entire supply chain to root out cruelty and protect cows and calves from further abuse.



Actress Kate Mara narrates the undercover footage outlining abuses at Dick Van Dam Dairy.

Your support drives this work to shield animals from cruelty. And there’s one more way you can flex your power to help cows and calves: Join the Animal Legal Defense Fund in calling on Target to honor its policy by pulling DFA products from its shelves.



To learn more about this campaign and send a message to Target executives, **visit [aldf.org/target](http://aldf.org/target).**

# Demanding Government Transparency for Animals



To protect animals from cruelty, we first need to know about that cruelty.

But our government doesn't always make it easy.

Essential information about the treatment of animals is often obscured through hidden records and unpublished data, preventing the public from discovering how their tax dollars are being spent or intervening on animals' behalf through legal action or citizen advocacy.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is committed to fighting for government transparency to protect animals and taxpayers alike — filing high-impact lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to uncover the truth about how animals are treated in research facilities, factory farms, slaughterhouses, and other places where they are seen as commodities rather than as living, feeling beings.

In October, the Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) over the agency's failure to provide requested public records about the inspection process for facilities that conduct research experiments on nonhuman primates. To protect these animals from the worst abuses, it's imperative that we know the details of how these inspections are conducted — information the USDA has thus far refused to provide.

In November, we filed suit against the USDA over its inappropriately redacted response to an earlier public records request, which sought information on a controversial program to capture and slaughter wild geese in parks in the city of Denver. The agency's response included a contract between USDA Wildlife Services and a Colorado slaughterhouse, but redacted the number of birds slated to be killed through this program, as well as the price paid for each slaughtered bird — both key omissions that limited the public's understanding of the program.

We're also part of a coalition of organizations challenging the federal Farm Service Agency over its improper redactions and delayed responses to FOIA requests seeking information on the agency's handling of farm loans and loan guarantees. The requested information has major implications for animal treatment, environmental protection, and the responsible use of federal funds.

Government officials know that the public cares deeply about animals and doesn't want tax dollars being used to harm them. By obscuring the truth about how animals are treated using taxpayer funds, these agencies are preventing the public from having their say and conducting proper government oversight. With your help, we're fighting for animal protection — and government accountability.



The Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a federal lawsuit challenging the USDA's redaction of a geese culling contract. It alleges the concealment of the expected number of birds slaughtered — and payment per bird — is illegal. Go to [aldf.org/geese](https://aldf.org/geese) to read more.

## CHALLENGING A NOTORIOUS KITTEN MILL

At a Florida cat breeding operation called Adorable Stars, the antics of playful kittens are streamed online to more than 70,000 followers. But behind the scenes, cats and kittens are subjected to inhumane, neglectful conditions and inadequate care. Multiple people who've purchased kittens from Adorable Stars have learned too late that their new companions are desperately ill or suffering from serious parasite infestations. Several kittens have died as a result of Adorable Stars' harmful practices, leaving their new guardians devastated and facing significant veterinary bills.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund filed a lawsuit against Adorable Stars on behalf of three individuals whose newly acquired kittens suffered significant health problems as a result of Adorable Stars' mistreatment and neglect. In one especially egregious case, after Adorable Stars' operator performed a crude medical procedure on a kitten, the animal had to be rushed to a licensed veterinarian and treated for a large, ruptured abscess caused by the breeder's misconduct.

The federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires commercial animal dealers and exhibitors to be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture



The very next day after Zahar was brought home with Ms. Lima, she found the kitten was infested with fleas and covered in flea "dirt" (excrement).

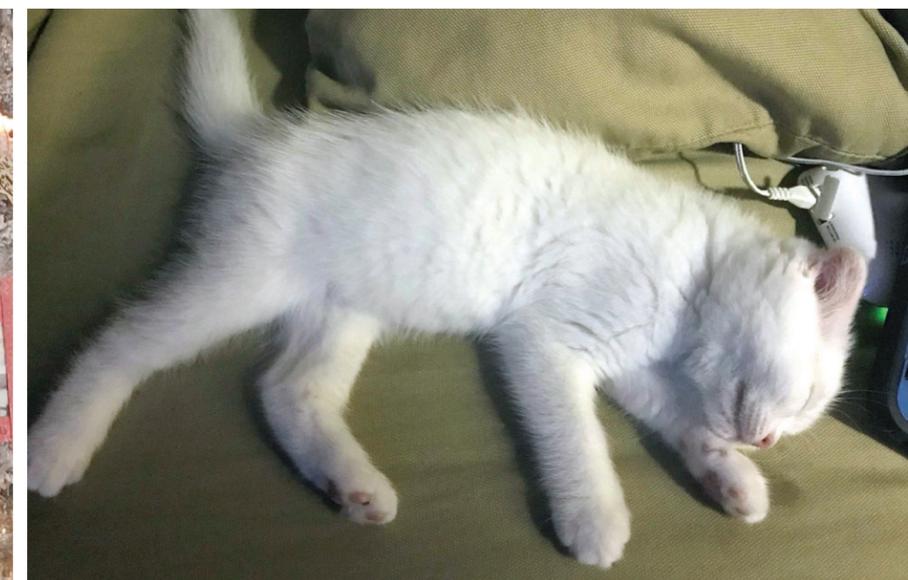
(USDA). But Adorable Stars has no such license — and is therefore operating in violation of the AWA.

In addition to our civil litigation action against Adorable Stars, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is urging the USDA to launch an investigation of this unscrupulous breeder, impose civil penalties, and seize the cats and kittens from the facility and allow them to be removed to a reputable rescue organization.

Learn more at [aldf.org/adorablestars](https://aldf.org/adorablestars).



Ms. Castillo brought the kitten home to her family, and they named her Coco, before she quickly became ill.



Coco is awake but very ill at the vet.

# PROTECTING ANIMALS NOW AND FOREVER



**Annemarie Nauert and her dogs Gaby and Jojo**

**F**or Annemarie Nauert, her commitment to caring for animals has been a common thread running through her life and work. From fostering dogs through a local rescue organization to advocating for wildlife-friendly policies in her career as a biological engineer,

animals are never far from Annemarie’s mind. A dedicated supporter of the Animal Legal Defense Fund for several years, since she first learned about our work securing important legal protections for animals, Annemarie is now a proud member of the Justice Legacy Society.

**Says Annemarie:**

It is a great comfort to me to know there is an organization like the Animal Legal Defense Fund whose job it is to continually innovate and advocate on behalf of animals. I know that their work will compound over time to prevent the cases of animal abuse, neglect, and indifference that currently require other organizations to intervene on the back end. In other words, the Animal Legal Defense Fund is addressing the root cause so that animal advocates everywhere can eventually be relieved of the tragic responsibilities they are so often burdened with today.”

**Learn how your giving can protect animals at [aldf.org/support](https://aldf.org/support).**

## PROTECTING ANIMALS ON CRAIGSLIST

From puppies and kittens to reptiles and farmed animals, Craigslist’s inadequate and laxly enforced policies enable all manner of animal sales. This puts animals in danger — while also providing a profitable venue for unscrupulous breeders and dealers and leaving Craigslist users vulnerable to fraud.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund is currently representing several puppy-buyer plaintiffs in their lawsuit against unethical California breeders the Kenney family, whose harmful practices caused puppies to suffer and even die from preventable illnesses and parasite infestations.

**We’re also urging Craigslist to protect animals by banning all animal transfer posts across the platform. You can help by sending a message to Craigslist at [aldf.org/craigslist](https://aldf.org/craigslist).**



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